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MEMORANDUM FOR:

[Redacted]
Chief, International Security Issues Division
Office of Global Issues

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FROM:

[Redacted]
Chairman, DCI Intelligence Information Handling Committee

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SUBJECT:

CIA Participation in the Joint Maritime Information
Element Project

1. Thank you for your memorandum of 30 November. CIA's participation and assistance in launching the JMIE Program has indeed been timely and of great value, and your continuing support in the contracts area is much appreciated. While I understand the Agency's reluctance to commit itself to a continuing fiscal obligation in an area of marginal return, I would suggest that a decision to withdraw from the consortium at this time may be unnecessary and undesirable.

2. Formalization of the understandings covering JMIE operations, which would entail a support obligation, will not occur until FY 1990 and the completion of the JMIE Support System (JSS) core capability. The interim testbed system currently being activated is funded, and involves no fiscal obligation on the part of consortium members. The ultimate operational utility of the JSS is currently undeterminable because it is intended to operate in a unique environment, the interface between the Intelligence and Law Enforcement Communities. In addition, a main area of focus - narcotics interdiction - is currently in flux, as regards the prospective roles of Community agencies, including CIA. I would anticipate insights into both questions during the coming year, reflected in our operational experience with the JSS testbed system.

3. In short, while it may transpire that your current cost-benefit analysis is correct, I recommend that you remain with the consortium through FY 1989, as it will cost CIA nothing to wait and see. You would have sufficient opportunity to opt out when action on the memorandum of understanding is resumed. However, should you determine to continue the course indicated in your memorandum, please accept our gratitude for CIA's most valuable contribution to the JMIE Program.

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